

Message Text

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11

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 DHA-02 EB-07

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /129 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1131

UNCLAS USUN 3417

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFIN SL

SUBJ: SIERRA LEONE DISASTER RELIEF

1. THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION TO THE SYG, DATED JULY 9, 1975 WAS TRANSMITTED TO PERMANENT MISSIONS OF STATES MEMBERS OF UN BY THE UN SECRETARIAT ON JULY 14, 1975 AT THE REQUEST OF PERMREP OF SIERRA LEONE TO THE UN:

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,

"I HAVE THE HONOUR, ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF MY GOVERNMENT, TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT ON SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1975, A SEVERE HURRICANE OCCURRED WHICH CAUSED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN SIERRA LEONE. THE MAGNITUDE OF THE DAMAGE HAS CAUSED HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT TO DECLARE THE HURRICANE A "NATIONAL DISASTER".

"IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, A TOTAL OF OVER 2,000 HOUSES WERE EITHER COMPLETELY DEMOLISHED OR PARTIALLY DESTROYED BY THE HURRICANE. INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INDICATE THAT THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE CAUSED IS ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY LE3
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MILLION (THREE MILLION LEONES). THIS INCLUDES DAMAGE TO

PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES, ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS. THIS ESTIMATE IS REGARDED AS CONSERVATIVE AND MIGHT COST MORE BY THE TIME COMPLETE RESTORATION IS ACHIEVED.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE IS HEREBY APPEALING TO ALL FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS TO DONATE WHATEVER FINANCIAL AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE THEY CAN, TO ASSIST SIERRA LEONE IN HER RESTORATION ACTIVITIES SO THAT THE AFFECTED VICTIMS WILL SOON BE REHABILITATED.

"A SPECIAL EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO LOOK INTO ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE APPEAL FUND. THE EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMITTEE, IN ORDER TO PERFORM ITS FUNCTIONS EFFICIENTLY, HAS OPENED AN ACCOUNT AT THE SIERRA LEONE COMMERCIAL BANK, FREETOWN, WHERE ALL VOLUNTARY DONATIONS SHOULD BE MADE.

"I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THIS NOTE COULD BE CIRCULATED AS AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT TO ALL MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

"ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.
(SIGNED)

"EDWARD W. BLYDEN III
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND
PLENIPOTENTIARY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS"
MOYNIHAN

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